

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

MAY 2003



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Seasonal job growth below normal - Per capita income increase weak

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in the Eau Claire-Chippewa metropolitan area rose to 5.1 percent in April from 5.0 percent in March. According to estimates released by the Department of Workforce Development the current rate is higher than in the previous month but less than one year ago when the seasonally adjusted rate was 5.9 percent. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 5.8 percent in March to 6.0 percent in April, but in Wisconsin the rate declined from 5.5 to 5.4 percent.

The increase in seasonally adjusted unemployment reflects the weakness in area employment. In April the number of jobholders, seasonally adjusted, declined by 1,700. That left 82,000 employed residents in a total labor force of 86,400.

Typically in April, we see greater increases in the number of workers returning to construction and other seasonal jobs. This year, there was an increase in those jobs but it wasn't as large an increase as in years past. Added to the lackadaisical increase in seasonal jobs, manufacturing jobs declined a bit more than usual in April. Both of these trends follow what is occurring in the nation and reflect a sluggish recovery in the economy and a wariness of consumers to spend extra dollars.

Unemployment does continue to decline, however, as do claims for unemployment insurance benefits. The number of claims in the metro area has been lower than in the same week one year ago since mid-March. By mid-May the number of residents filing claims drops to 2,550 down from a high in January of 4,150.

Unemployment claims in the rural counties of the region have also declined since January but have only been lower than one year ago since the first week in May. In mid-May the number of residents filing claims was 3,490 down from a high in January of 6,700.

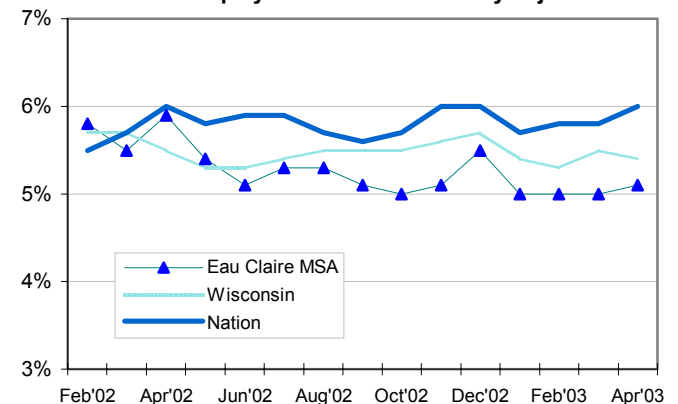
The total number of unemployed in the region declined

in April to 16,510 residents out of a total labor force of 240,400. The decline in the number of unemployed produced a lower unemployment rate. In April the unemployment rate in West Central Wisconsin was 6.9 percent, down from 7.8 percent in April and lower than the 7.0 percent rate of one year ago.

Polk County was one of four counties in the state with an increase from March in unemployment rate. The April unemployment rate of 9.8 percent is the highest rate for the month since 1986 when it was 10.9 percent. The reason for the rate was a spike in manufacturing layoffs in mid-April. The current unemployment rate in Polk County was the third highest rate in the state in April.

The greatest reduction in unemployment over last month occurred in Clark County. The unemployment rate declined from 10.5 percent in March to 8.7 percent in April and was the 14th highest in the state in April.

Unemployment Rates-Seasonally adjusted



	Feb'02	Mar'02	Apr'02	Feb'03	Mar'03	Apr'03
Eau Claire MSA	5.8%	5.5%	5.9%	5.0%	5.0%	5.1%
Wisconsin	5.7%	5.7%	5.5%	5.3%	5.5%	5.4%
Nation	5.5%	5.7%	6.0%	5.8%	5.8%	6.0%

Civilian Labor Force Estimates, not seasonally adjusted, for West Central Wisconsin counties

	Barron			Chippewa			Clark			Dunn			Eau Claire Co.		
	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02
Civilian labor force	25,390	25,382	24,603	32,199	32,871	31,891	16,512	16,561	15,857	23,657	23,775	22,971	54,667	55,213	53,501
Employed	23,555	23,247	22,825	29,857	29,995	29,086	15,079	14,814	14,397	22,327	22,167	21,683	52,086	52,328	50,741
Unemployed	1,835	2,135	1,778	2,342	2,876	2,805	1,433	1,747	1,460	1,330	1,608	1,288	2,581	2,885	2,760
% unemployed	7.2	8.4	7.2	7.3	8.7	8.8	8.7	10.5	9.2	5.6	6.8	5.6	4.7	5.2	5.2
	Pepin			Pierce			Polk			St. Croix			West Central region		
	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02
Civilian labor force	3,562	3,473	3,273	21,373	21,712	21,055	24,957	24,649	23,525	38,081	38,590	37,463	240,398	242,226	234,139
Employed	3,335	3,188	3,049	20,169	20,240	19,922	22,516	22,318	21,483	34,962	35,085	34,535	223,886	223,382	217,721
Unemployed	227	285	224	1,204	1,472	1,133	2,441	2,331	2,042	3,119	3,505	2,928	16,512	18,844	16,418
% unemployed	6.4	8.2	6.8	5.6	6.8	5.4	9.8	9.5	8.7	8.2	9.1	7.8	6.9	7.8	7.0

* not seasonally adjusted

Industry Employment Estimate: Current month - April 2003

(Employment in thousands)	Barron			Clark			Dunn			Pepin		
	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02
Total Nonfarm	21.9	21.5	21.6	10.0	9.8	9.7	16.1	15.9	15.9	2.4	2.3	2.3
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.2
Manufacturing	6.3	6.3	6.4	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.1	2.1	2.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Trade	3.4	3.4	3.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	2.5	2.4	2.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Transportation & Utilities	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.1	0.0	0.1
Financial Activities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
Education & Health Services	2.2	2.3	2.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	1.8	1.7	1.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	0.4	0.4	0.2
Info/Prof. & Bus.Serv./Other	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.3	1.2	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total Government	4.9	4.8	4.6	2.2	2.2	2.2	4.6	4.7	4.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
	Pierce			Polk			St. Croix			Eau Claire MSA		
	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02	Apr '03	Mar '03	Apr '02
Total Nonfarm	10.7	10.5	10.6	15.2	14.9	14.7	27.1	26.4	26.4	77.0	76.7	76.2
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.5	1.5	1.4	2.7	2.4	2.7
Manufacturing	0.8	0.8	0.8	3.8	3.7	3.8	5.6	5.6	6.0	10.8	11.1	11.2
Trade	1.1	1.2	1.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	4.3	4.2	4.2	12.7	12.7	12.6
Transportation & Utilities	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.0	0.9	2.8	2.8	2.7
Financial Activities	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.9	3.8	3.7	3.6
Education & Health Services	1.1	1.1	1.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	12.4	12.4	11.9
Leisure & Hospitality	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	3.5	3.2	3.0	7.2	7.0	7.2
Information/Prof. & Bus.Serv.	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	7.9	7.8	7.9
Other Services	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.7	3.8	3.7
Total Government	3.8	3.8	3.9	2.9	2.8	2.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	13.0	13.0	12.7

Current month preliminary. Estimates based on March 2002 benchmark. Summing from unrounded numbers.

New per capita income estimates

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis released new per capita personal income (PCPI) estimates for 2001 in early May. Total personal income (total dollars from all income sources) in the combined region of West Central Wisconsin rose 3.0 percent from 2000 to 2001, less than the increase in the state of 3.4 percent and in the nation of 3.3 percent.

Per capita personal income (total personal income divided by total population) rose 1.9 percent in the region compared with a 2.8 percent increase in the state and 2.2 per-

cent increase in the nation.

The largest component of personal income is net earnings. Net earnings for Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Pepin counties declined in 2001 and suppressed growth in total personal income in the region. Net earnings also include an adjustment for earnings of workers who commute outside the county. The largest dollar adjustment and 47 percent of net earnings, in the region occurs in St. Croix County. The county has the fourth highest PCPI in the state. In Pierce County the adjustment accounts for 56 percent of net earnings and the PCPI is 20th highest in the state.

Total Personal Income for West Central Wisconsin Counties: 2001

Components	Barron	Chippewa	Clark	Dunn	Eau Claire	Pepin	Pierce	Polk	St. Croix	West Central
Personal income	\$1,079,844	\$1,404,847	\$695,397	\$881,266	\$2,467,212	\$149,082	\$1,006,598	\$971,743	\$2,117,796	\$10,773,785
Population (persons)	\$45,217	\$55,751	\$33,778	\$40,398	\$93,757	\$7,251	\$37,088	\$42,194	\$65,704	\$421,138
Per capita personal income	\$23,881	\$25,199	\$20,587	\$21,815	\$26,315	\$20,560	\$27,141	\$23,030	\$32,232	\$25,583
Earnings by place of work	\$741,171	\$817,182	\$346,388	\$533,809	\$1,855,202	\$73,592	\$346,333	\$487,848	\$921,461	\$6,122,986
Adjustment for residence	-\$17,852	\$131,519	\$81,090	\$80,084	-\$115,065	\$19,711	\$410,548	\$186,079	\$763,749	NA
Net earnings by residence	\$678,162	\$896,368	\$405,196	\$584,340	\$1,627,070	\$88,494	\$738,057	\$642,366	\$1,625,984	\$7,286,037
Dividends, interest, and rent	\$207,459	\$275,795	\$153,783	\$164,163	\$494,805	\$30,935	\$162,919	\$167,943	\$319,209	\$1,977,011
Transfer payments	\$194,223	\$232,684	\$136,418	\$132,763	\$345,337	\$29,653	\$105,622	\$161,434	\$172,603	\$1,510,737
Wage and salary disburs.	\$574,063	\$641,496	\$251,737	\$440,490	\$1,517,124	\$58,691	\$263,949	\$379,806	\$744,696	\$4,872,052
Other labor income	\$74,998	\$78,823	\$33,406	\$59,449	\$173,756	\$7,769	\$39,241	\$49,099	\$86,428	\$602,969
Proprietors' income	\$92,110	\$96,863	\$61,245	\$33,870	\$164,322	\$7,132	\$43,143	\$58,943	\$90,337	\$647,965

Source: US Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System. <http://www.bea.gov/region/reis/>

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

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